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CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT PLAN

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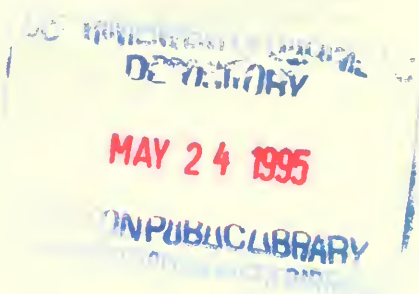
Consideration on the Committee Over...

MEETING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

FEBRUARY 14, 1995

Printed for the use of the Committee on International Relations



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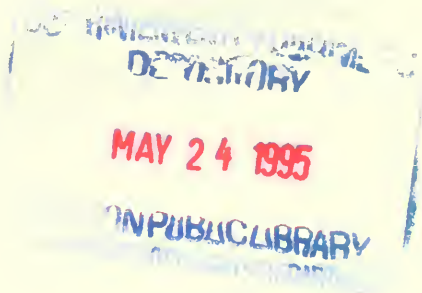
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CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT PLAN

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1995

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:24 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman (chairman of the committee) presiding.

Chairman GILMAN. The committee will come to order. Gentlemen and ladies, take your seats, please.

The committee meets today in open session to consider its oversight plan for the 104th Congress.

As you know, the committees of the House have historically exercised "watchful oversight" over the functions of the executive branch, although specific committees' interest and involvement has waxed and waned over time.

With regard to international relations, oversight is particularly important. Since direct legislative control over the executive is necessarily difficult. In addition, many details of our relations with foreign nations must remain confidential. But the Congress, as the public's representative, is still responsible for ensuring that the executive's action and the conduct of these sensitive relations reflect the public's will.

The House rule mandating the adoption of an oversight plan was adopted on January 4. The new rule is intended to mandate that all committees look ahead and consider their oversight responsibilities, and to allow the House leadership to consider the adequacy of those plans, and suggest any appropriate coordination.

Upon adopting a plan, we will send it forward to the Committees on Government Reform and Oversight and House Oversight. The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight will consult with the Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader, and will report to the House our oversight plan, and the other oversight plans, and any recommendations that it may have to ensure effective coordination of our oversight.

This document obviously reflects an ambitious agenda. Our intention was to be as inclusive as possible within the broad limits of our jurisdiction and of the concept of oversight.

The committee and its subcommittees are not precluded from undertaking additional oversight efforts, nor are they limited to working in a hearing format. All kinds of oversight are permitted and encouraged, as far as I am concerned.

In addition, the plan does not spell out which activities are to be undertaken by the full committee, and which by the subcommittees. This will be a matter of coordination between the full committee and subcommittee chairmen in consultation with the appropriate ranking minority members.

We have been in touch informally and formally with the minority from which we receive valuable input, and which I very much appreciate. The majority and minority staffs negotiated a series of changes. The document now before you reflects, in all essential respects, the agreement reached between the staffs.

Members have before them today the draft oversight plan of the forthcoming Congress, which is now in order to discuss. My intention would be to recognize members beginning with our ranking minority member, Mr. Hamilton, for comments.

We have agreed that at the conclusion of this meeting that we will forward the plan with any revisions necessary to reflect our discussion today, and for additional technical or grammatical changes to the appropriate committees.

Mr. Hamilton.

[The prepared statement of Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman appears in the appendix.]

Mr. HAMILTON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you for calling this meeting, and for giving us the opportunity to review the oversight plan. I think that the proposal to have oversight plans is a good one. And I do want to express my appreciation to you and your staff for your willingness to consult carefully with the minority with respect to the oversight plan. I think that process, as you have described it, has gone rather well.

We have before us a very extensive oversight plan. I think that I have a question or two about it, which I will pose. I do not know if you want that now or at a later point.

Mr. GILMAN. Yes, feel free.

Mr. HAMILTON. The central thing that I am interested in is to get a sense of your own priorities, priority issues for this session of the Congress. There are so many subjects listed in the oversight plan. I think that we will get to most of them, and maybe all of them, in the course of the year.

But can you give us a sense of what your own priorities are with respect to the oversight?

Mr. GILMAN. Well, thank you, Mr. Hamilton. I will try to respond. I think that some of our immediate priorities should be the consideration of the Department of State bill, the foreign aid bill, and any reforms that may be necessary. I will be asking our subcommittees to orient their activities in the near future toward consideration of issues that are implicated in those two bills.

In addition, we will also be convening meetings of the full committee to review issues relating to Europe and to the Middle East. We will be consulting with the ranking Democratic member on other items from this agenda. We should be considering in the near term the full committee by the full committee staff.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, let me say that I think it is important, especially since the full committee has jurisdiction of Middle East and European matters, that we have hearings. There are a lot of developments in both of those regions, as you well know.

And I am pleased to note that you intend to hold, at least as I understand it, one hearing a month on developments in either Europe or the Middle East.

I commend you for that. I think it is very important that we do that at the full committee level, so I am pleased to hear that.

Mr. GILMAN. We will try to adhere to that schedule.

Are there other comments?

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Moran.

Mr. MORAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

There is an issue that I would hope that this committee would look into. And that is the issue of mutual extradition treaties. To give you an example, in Arlington, right across the river, we have four cases of people who have committed very serious felonies. In one case, a cold blooded murder; and in another case, a hit and run of a little 3-year-old girl. They are El Salvadorans. And they have gone back to El Salvador, and thus escaped any threat of prosecution for these crimes.

We checked with these other jurisdictions just in Northern Virginia, and it turns out that every jurisdiction had several cases of felonies on the books that have never been prosecuted because El Salvador does not allow anyone to be extradited for prosecution. And it is impossible to get witnesses down there to translate the material. And in fact, in a country like El Salvador until very recently, they really did not have a credible criminal justice system.

When we give countries like this substantial sums of foreign aid, there really ought to be some type of extradition agreement, so that serious felonies can in fact be prosecuted. And I do not know that we have ever looked into this situation. We do not even collect data on how serious it is, but I know that El Salvador is not the only country where people can escape prosecution by going back to their country after committing a crime.

So I would hope that we could have some oversight into this issue, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. I think that the gentleman raises a good point, and I am going to ask our staff to try to arrange an appropriate time to discuss this within the committee.

Mr. MORAN. So we could include it within our oversight agenda?

Mr. GILMAN. Yes. We can take a look at whatever needs to be done to have a more effective extradition proceeding. In the past, we tried to tie it to some of the narcotics problems that we have had out there. But I think that it is appropriate that we consider that. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. McNulty.

Mr. McNULTY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a proposal for an addition on page 5 with regard to the U.S. policy toward Syria. There is no mention there of terrorism. And I would hope that we could include at least an additional sentence expressing our continued concern for Syria's history as a haven for terrorists, and as a supporter of terrorist activities around the world.

Mr. GILMAN. If I might bring to the gentleman's attention, in the section on terrorism, there is some notation with regard to Syria. But I think that the gentleman made an appropriate comment. We

certainly should include that, and we will make certain that it is included.

Mr. McNULTY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Roth.

Mr. ROTH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, let me compliment you on this plan. I have had a chance, as others have, to review this plan. And the oversight plan is a very important one. Under international economic policy and trade, we have 11 different areas. And I want to assure the chairman that we are going to be looking at oversight and reporting back to the full committee. So that within the timeframe that is given to us, we can complete this mission.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Roth. We certainly will abide by that.

Mr. Hastings.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Chairman, while I have absolutely no disagreement, and compliment you and the staff for the preparation of this oversight draft, on page 2 where you talk about Rogue Regimes, under 2(c), it is indicated that our focus will turn to that area in the fall of 1996.

And while I recognize and would hope that none of this is necessarily chiseled in stone, such that you have to live by any fixed date, it would seem to me with the developments in the world and with reference to Rogue Regimes, and the fact that many of them are developing nuclear weapons and other methods of mass destruction, I would hope that we could somewhere along the line move that to the front burner a little bit quicker than it does appear for the fall of 1996.

Additionally, Mr. Chairman, and I just ask for information, there is nothing in the oversight draft regarding foreign travel of committee members. And I do not know whether the rule prohibits it, or whether or not we would not put such in an oversight draft. But I want the Chair to know, and other members, particularly new members, that the most beneficial experiences that I had came about as a result of traveling with Members of Congress to locales and learning firsthand what was going on in those specific arenas.

There are some that have a total disagreement with that, and I think that they are shortsighted. And I do believe that it would be helpful somewhere if we indicated that there was going to be travel.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman for his comment. We have sent out within the last week a memorandum on foreign travel. There are no major prohibitions, but we do encourage that there be a member of both the majority and minority on any mission, and that a report be issued immediately following that, so that the entire committee would have the benefit of your findings.

If you would just take a look at the memo. Those are the guidelines that we are suggesting on foreign travel. We certainly do urge our members to take advantage of any recess period when they can go out and explore the problems firsthand. There is an old Chinese expression that if you travel horseback, you cannot smell the flowers. And one picture is worth a thousand words. But one trip to some important areas can be very beneficial to the entire commit-

tee, especially, if you share your views and findings with the entire committee.

Thank you, Mr. Hastings.

Are there any further comments?

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Payne.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

You certainly have done an outstanding job in listing many, many problems. It is difficult to tell whether the manner in which they come and the order of their category is the weightedness of it, or whether you have not prioritized any.

But I would just like to have you consider one other item in the area of international operations and human rights. There has been some concern and additional talk about the problem concerning slavery that has been verified in Mauritania, and is potentially in existence in the Sudan.

And I would just wonder if you would consider having that put in the list. I think that we have never had a hearing on that subject, and it is something that I would just like to add to your list.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Payne, I think that is an appropriate suggestion. I will ask our staff to include it.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Chairman, if I could be heard on that as well.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Smith.

Mr. SMITH. I thank the gentleman for his recommendation. And I have spoken to people. I even know people who work in Mauritania, who have told me of these kinds of things occurring. And I think that it would be very helpful for the subcommittee to do that. And I thank you for the suggestion.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Berman.

Mr. BERMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This is a little off point. But this is on the bill that you will be managing, The National Security Revitalization Act.

Is that coming up now tonight, or today rather than tomorrow?

Mr. GILMAN. I would hope that we keep our thoughts about this measure before us. But I have been informed that the rule may very well start this evening with a general debate following it for an hour or two this evening, and then tomorrow, it is scheduled for tomorrow for general debate, and for amendments.

Mr. BERMAN. So the preprinting of amendments could still take place tonight in the record, so that they would have preference tomorrow?

Mr. GILMAN. That is my understanding, and the preprinting is for preferential consideration of any of the amendments. Ms. Ros-Lehtinen.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

Getting back to Mr. Payne's comment, Congressman Zimmer has in fact filed a bill on this issue. And it is one of those very important topics that we were going to schedule a hearing on. So I thank the gentleman for bringing that up.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentlelady.

Are there any further comments with regard to the oversight document?

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Houghton.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Chairman, I would imagine that one of the big issues, unless something dramatic happens that we do not have any idea of now, will be the money crunch. And I do not know what sort of plans that you have on this, but it seems to me that more than any other time that we are going to be literally under the gun in terms of reallocating some of our programs throughout the world.

And I do not know if there are any special sessions that are going to be generated on that or not, but I worry about this.

Mr. GILMAN. That is certainly an appropriate comment. If you would note page one, section B, down at the bottom. It is evaluation of foreign assistance programs. The future of the Agency for International Development. I call your attention, too, to the column by Senator Helms, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who once again is advocating the reform of the organization of the State Department, and bringing within the State Department AID, the Arms Control Agency, and the USIA, which initially had been advocated by Secretary Christopher. But certainly, that is an important consideration, and it will be part of our oversight.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Thank you.

Mr. GILMAN. Are there any other comments by any other member?

If there are no further comments or questions, without objection, the plan is considered adopted with additional proposals that were voiced today. The chair in consultation with the ranking minority member will revise the plan to reflect our discussions, and make any additional grammatical and conforming changes that may be required. And we will be forwarding the plan to the appropriate committees of the House.

[The committee oversight plan appears in the appendix.]

Mr. GILMAN. I note for the record that the quorum required for the purpose of reporting legislation or recommendations to the House is present.

If there are no further comments, the committee stands adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.

[Whereupon, at 10:43 a.m., the committee adjourned, subject to the call of the chair.]

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE OVERSIGHT PLAN FOR THE 104TH CONGRESS OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

February 14, 1995

The Chairman:

The Committee will be in order.

The Committee meets today in open session to consider its oversight plan for the 104th Congress.

Oversight and Foreign Affairs

Committees of the House have historically exercised "watchful oversight" over the functions of the Executive Branch, although specific Committees' interest and involvement has waxed and waned over time.

In the area of international relations, oversight is especially important, since direct legislative control over the Executive is necessarily difficult. In addition, many details of our relations with foreign countries must remain confidential; but the Congress, as the public's representative, is responsible for insuring that the Executive's actions in the conduct of those sensitive relations reflects the public's will.

Accordingly, oversight has historically been an important element of this Committee's functions. The House began overseeing matters relating to foreign affairs near the inception of the Republic; indeed, the first House Resolution of Inquiry, in 1796, dealt with foreign affairs.

My view is that during my period of service on the Committee, we have done a good job of overseeing the Executive's conduct of foreign affairs, but of course there is always room for improvement, and with everyone's cooperation we can be a model for the rest of the House.

The Need for an Oversight Plan

The House rule mandating the adoption of an oversight plan was adopted on January 4. The new rule is intended to force all Committees to look ahead and consider their oversight responsibilities, and to allow the House leadership to consider the adequacy of our plans and suggest any appropriate coordination.

Upon adopting a plan, we will send it forward to the Committees on Government Reform and Oversight and on House Oversight. The Committee on Government Reform and Oversight will consult with the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority leader, and will report to the House our oversight plan -- and the other oversight plans -- and any recommendations that it have make to ensure effective coordination of oversight.

Several members of this Committee, including myself, serve on Government Reform and Oversight, and I will have our staff work with that staff to ensure a constructive review of our plan.

The Oversight Effort This Congress

This document obviously reflects an ambitious agenda.

Our intention was to be as inclusive as possible within the broad limits of our jurisdiction and of the concept of "oversight".

The Committee and its subcommittees are not precluded from undertaking additional oversight efforts. Nor are they limited to working in a hearing format. All kinds of oversight are permitted and encouraged, as far as I am concerned.

In addition, the plan does not spell out which activities are to be undertaken by the full Committee and which by the subcommittees. This will be a matter for coordination between the full committee and subcommittee chairmen, in consultation with the appropriate ranking minority members.

The Preparation of this Plan

The staff of the full committee requested suggestions for this plan from the Subcommittee staff and from their colleagues on the full Committee, and compiled them into a single document, which was circulated to all the Members of the Committee on Thursday, with a request that comments be forwarded to the Committee staff.

We were also in touch informally and formally with the Minority, from whom we received valuable input, which I very much appreciate. The Majority and Minority staffs negotiated a series of changes, and the document now before you reflects, in all essential respects, the agreement reached between the staffs.

Our Consideration Today

Members have before them the draft oversight plan for the upcoming Congress, which it is now in order to discuss.

My intention would be to recognize the members, beginning with Mr. Hamilton, for comments.

We have agreed that at the conclusion of this meeting, I will forward the plan, with any revisions necessary to reflect our discussion today, or additional technical or grammatical changes, to the appropriate committees.

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

OVERSIGHT PLAN

Rule X, clause 2 (d) of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires that each standing Committee adopt an oversight plan for the two-year period of the Congress and to submit the plan to the Committees on Government Reform and Oversight and House Oversight not later than February 15 of the first session of the Congress.

This is the oversight plan of the Committee on International Relations for the 104th Congress. It includes the areas in which the Committee hopes to conduct oversight during this Congress. As the Committee's priorities change, the oversight work of the Committee may change. The fact that an issue is listed here does not mean that the Committee will necessarily hold a formal meeting devoted solely to that issue, but means that the Committee hopes to cover the issue during the course of its oversight work.

GENERAL

A. Ongoing Meetings with Administration and Foreign Leaders

The Committee and its subcommittees, and individual members, especially the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, will continue to meet, informally and in formal sessions, with members of the President's Cabinet and officials at all levels within the Executive branch. These meetings allow the Committee and its members to raise issues relating to the conduct of foreign affairs and other matters within its oversight jurisdiction.

Committee members meet, as an element of the oversight process, with heads of state and government, cabinet ministers, and parliamentarians from around the world. In the 103rd Congress, the Committee held over 200 meetings of this nature; in the 104th Congress, the Committee expects to maintain that pace. In addition, Committee staff meet with countless foreign visitors on an informal basis. These meetings, inter alia, allow the Committee to evaluate the effectiveness of U.S. diplomacy with respect to our relations with these visitors' countries and third countries.

B. Evaluation of Foreign Assistance Programs; the Future of the Agency for International Development.

Structure of Foreign Aid in the Post-Cold-War World: who, what and how? Including evaluation of foreign aid institutions. (Winter/Spring, 1995)

Duplication/Overlap in Foreign Assistance. What foreign assistance (and technical cooperation) is being administered outside of AID/State Department? (Spring, 1995)

Effectiveness of Development Assistance, including: Review of effectiveness of foreign assistance in influencing policy changes in developing countries; Current role of development foundations; Evaluation of the role of training in development assistance; what is the role of agriculture research in development; what are valid indicators of social and economic development? (Spring/Summer/Fall, 1995)

Review of PL 480, Food aid, cargo preference. (Summer, 1995)

Experimental quick-turn-around GAO pentagon-style "budget scrub" of selected aid program(s). (Spring/Summer 1995)

Review of comparative effectiveness of bilateral and multilateral aid programs. (USAID DA vs. UNDP). (Fall, 1995)

Review of microenterprise programs. (Fall 1995/Winter 1996)

Evaluation of the effectiveness of population programs. (Spring, 1996)

The effectiveness of Enterprise Funds as an alternative model for foreign assistance. (Winter/Spring, 1995)

PVO/NGO role in delivering foreign assistance: Are PVOs contractors, partners or grantees? (Spring, 1995)

Review of Democracy-building activities. One of the key activities of USIA, AID, and other agencies is the role they play in support of democracy development. A proliferation of democracy programs in various agencies, and non-governmental organizations raises questions as to overlap, efficiency, and effectiveness. (Summer, 1995)

C. Security Assistance/Political-Military Issues/Arms Control/Non-Proliferation/Peacekeeping

Review of military aid to Greece and Turkey. (Spring/Summer, 1995)

Review of effectiveness of expanded International Military Education and Training program. (Fall, 1996)

"Rogue regimes." Review of the problem of security threats from so-called "rogue regimes" that have, or could gain, the power to create weapons of mass destruction. (Fall, 1996)

Peacekeeping. Major unresolved issues remain in the wake of the consideration of the peacekeeping provisions in H.R. 7 by the House. The extent to which U.S. participation in U.N. peacekeeping advances U.S. national interests and the degree to which other countries are paying their fair share of these costs, are two key issues that need oversight by our committee. (Spring, 1995)

Arms Control. Review implementation of arms control treaties and agreements including the START treaties, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the CFE Treaty, the ABM Treaty, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Missile Technology Control Regime and other arms control and nonproliferation agreements. (Spring, 1995 - Fall, 1996)

Nonproliferation. Effectiveness of IAEA; Status of fissile material production ban. (Spring, 1996)

Conventional Arms Transfer Policy. (Spring, 1995)

Nunn-Lugar Program. Review implementation of program aimed at dismantlement and destruction of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in the independent states of the former Soviet Union. (Spring, 1995 - Spring, 1996)

Security Assistance. Review effectiveness and implementation of security assistance programs including FMF, ESF, IMET, and NPDP spigots. (Spring, 1995 - Spring 1996)

D. Terrorism and Narcotics Control Programs and Activities.

Oversight on the process of countries getting on and off the "terrorist" list; what alternatives exist to current policies. (Summer, 1995)

Examination of cooperation between FBI, CIA, State Department and other U.S. agencies concerning organized crime worldwide. Is legislation needed? Focus on former Soviet Union. (Spring, 1995)

Review of the impact of the massive visa and passport fraud in the U.S. and abroad on America's problems with terrorism, illicit drugs, and new organized crime elements. (Fall, 1995)

Oversight of the State Department's visa lookout system and the interagency information sharing program. The State Department IG and the GAO have recently completed analyses of the serious shortcomings in the visa lookout system. (Fall, 1995)

Oversight of international narcotics annual certification determinations for 1995/1996 with regard to major drug transit or producing countries and worldwide review of cooperation with U.S. on counternarcotics efforts. (Spring, 1995 and Spring, 1996) (after certifications are released).

Review of the overall international narcotics component of the Administration drug strategy presented each year by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). (Spring, 1995 and 1996, after the national drug control strategy released annually in early February)

Examination U.S. response to the proliferation of FSU-origin nuclear materials to terrorists or rogue states. (Winter, 1996)

The War Against Drugs: Peru, Bolivia, Colombia. The committee will oversee U.S. efforts to induce these countries to cooperate in with U.S. eradication and interdiction efforts. (Spring 1995)

Drug Interdiction: the U.S. Mexican Border. The Committee will examine what impact NAFTA has had on cross-border drug traffic as well as the general state of U.S. Border Patrol and Drug Enforcement Agency efforts to stop this traffic. (Summer, 1995)

Money Laundering: the Caribbean. The Committee will explore the effectiveness of recent efforts to curb money laundering in the Caribbean. (Summer, 1996)

THE MIDDLE EAST

The Committee will hold periodic hearings on current developments in the Middle East. It will call the Assistant Secretary responsible for this area approximately every other month. These hearings would require the Administration to justify its current and ongoing overall policy in the region to the Congress; questions central to the Committee's interest in overseeing the conduct of foreign affairs in these regions may be put to the Administration in a timely manner. The Committee will also hold closed briefings, as appropriate, with the Assistant Secretary or his or her subordinate. As appropriate, topics set out below will be explored in depth with the Assistant Secretary.

Administration and Public testimony on assistance programs for this region will be received before foreign aid markup begins. (Winter/Spring, 1995)

Oversight of the Palestinian track of the peace process, including oversight of the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. (e.g., PLO compliance with its commitments); effect of peace process on Israel's security and Middle East stability; U.S. funding and oversight of UNRWA. Review GAO report findings on PLO assets; need for additional legislation relative to beneficiaries of U.S. assistance. (Spring/Summer, 1995)

Review of the Administration's Dual Containment Policy regarding Iraq and Iran. U.S. policy on Iran's global relationships, its nuclear aspirations, its sponsorship of terrorism, fundamentalism, the stability of the Iranian regime, economic conditions in Iran, U.S. commercial interests in Iran, and OECD relations with Iran.

Iraq Sanctions Regime; U.S. policy and the situation of the Kurds in the North (Operation Provide Comfort) and the Shia in the South (Operation Southern Watch). U.S. policy toward Saddam Hussein. U.S. strategy on sanctions in the Security Council. (Fall, 1995)

U.S. policy towards Syria. Syria's Relationship with Iran; Syria's ongoing military buildup. Assessment of regime stability and succession as well as relationship between stability concerns and the peace process. (Winter, 1996)

U.S. policy toward Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. Including political stability, internal reform, U.S. military presence and base rights and repositioning, U.S. arms sales. (Spring, 1996)

Review of U.S. policy toward Israel in the light of the expected 1996 Elections. (Spring, 1996)

Islamic Fundamentalism and its effect on countries in the Middle East. International and regional linkages of Islamist organizations, including funding and training. Address U.S. policy as well as other Middle East governments policies. (Summer, 1996)

Egypt. U.S.-Egyptian relations; the future of U.S. aid to Egypt and Egypt's economic reform program; Islamist violence, human rights and the stability of the Mubarak regime; Egypt's role in the peace process, including Egyptian-Israeli relations; and Egypt's regional relations including with Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinians, and Libya. (Spring, 1996)

Middle East Trade Issues. Possible free trade area; the proposed Middle East Development Bank; economic relations between Israel and the Arab countries.

EUROPE

The Committee will hold periodic hearings on current developments in Europe. It will call the Assistant Secretary responsible for this area approximately every other month. These hearings would require the Administration to justify its current and ongoing overall policy in the region to the Congress; questions central to the Committee's interest in overseeing the conduct of foreign affairs in these regions may be put to the Administration in a timely manner. The Committee will also hold closed briefings, as appropriate, with the Assistant Secretary or his or her subordinate. As appropriate, topics set out below will be explored in depth with the Assistant Secretary.

Administration and Public testimony on assistance programs for this region will be received before foreign aid markup begins. (Winter/Spring, 1995)

Review of U.S. policy toward Russia: Are we promoting Constitutionalism or Authoritarianism? Is a cooperative relationship possible in the short and long term? (Winter, 1995)

Review of U.S. Assistance Programs for the Newly Independent States: look at the structure of assistance programs and whether they are helping achieve the objectives of political and economic reform. (Winter, 1995)

Review of the administration of U.S. Assistance Programs for Eastern Europe, with special emphasis on the "southern tier." (Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Croatia, and Albania). (Spring, 1995)

Review of the administration of U.S. foreign policy with special attention to its impact on the CIS organization and on Russian policy toward its immediate neighbors, Eastern Europe, and Japan. (Summer, 1995)

Review of U.S. policy toward Serbia and Croatia; effects of international sanctions; prospects for a settlement of the conflict in Croatia. (Summer, 1995)

U.S. policy toward Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan; review of how the Administration is dealing with conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia. (Fall, 1995)

U.S. policy toward Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus: Assistance Programs and Political Developments; U.S. policy with respect to the relations between these countries and Russia. (Fall, 1995)

Review of U.S. Assistance Programs for the Newly Independent States. (Winter, 1996)

Review of U.S. Assistance Programs for Eastern Europe. (Winter, 1996)

Review of U.S. policy toward Macedonia, Bulgaria, Albania and Romania: Nationalism, Ethnic Minorities and the Effects of Balkan Instability. Status of Enterprise fund fo Albania. (Spring, 1996)

Review of U.S. policy towards Central Asia. (U.S. treatment of ethnic issues; their relations with China, Russia, Turkey, and the Islamic states; role of U.S. assistance programs; natural resources issues. (Spring, 1996)

Quarterly review of U.S. policy on Bosnia -- U.S. military involvement, economic sanctions, arms embargo, effect of U.N. peacekeeping (informal meetings or formal hearings, tbd).

Review of U.S. policy and actions on Cyprus. Strength of U.S. support for settlement, impact of the situation on our relations with Greece, Turkey, and Cyprus. (Summer, 1995 and 1996)

Human Rights in Turkey: Effect of FMS conditionality on Turkish policies, including Turkish cooperation on Cyprus (may be closed/informal) (Spring, 1995/Winter, 1996).

US/Europe Union Relations: Is free trade/closer political coordination possible?

NATO issues. Implementation of the NATO Participation Act. Security architecture for Europe: Future of NATO, EU, WEU, and OSCE. (Fall, 1995)

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY AND TRADE

Post-COCOM Negotiations. The U.S. government is currently negotiating with 22 other governments over proposals to establish a new multi-lateral export control regime to replace the now-defunct Coordinating Committee on Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM). The committee will conduct a review of these negotiations, their current status, U.S. goals and the prospects for successfully establishing a regime. (Spring, 1995)

U.S. Efforts to Open Markets in Telecommunications and Financial Services. The committee will review the range of negotiations now underway and assess the progress of these talks and the potential for increasing U.S. exports. (Spring and Summer 1995)

U.S. Efforts to Protect Intellectual Property. The Committee will review the effectiveness of the U.S. strategy in these talks. (Late winter, 1995)

Export Promotion of U.S. Agricultural Products. The committee will review export promotion programs in conjunction with upcoming action on the trade provisions of the 1995 Farm Bill, which are under the jurisdiction of the committee. (Early Spring 1995)

AID Housing Guarantee Program. AID a program with \$2.5 billion in outstanding loan guarantees to support housing and community development overseas. (This program is separate from the special guarantee program for Israel.) The GAO is studying the program; the committee review the results of that study, as well as other information related to the program. (Spring, 1995)

U.S. Policy on Tied Aid Practices.

U.S. policy holds that tied aid generates unfair trade. To discourage tied aid, the U.S. government maintains a fund in the Export-Import Bank which is used to match tied aid proposals from other governments that would disadvantage U.S. exporters. The committee will review the effectiveness of the OECD agreement and the use of the Ex-Im Bank fund. (Summer 1995)

Export Assistance for Small- and Medium-sized firms. The Committee is concerned that small- and medium-sized firms face difficulties in making use of U.S. government export promotion and finance programs.

Working jointly with the Small Business Committee, the committee will examine current programs to determine whether improvements can be made to make them more "user-friendly" for smaller companies. (Fall, 1995)

Export Promotion and Finance Programs. The U.S. government maintains a series of agencies and programs to promote U.S. exports and help finance export transactions. Agencies include the EX-IM Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Trade and Development Agency, and the International Trade Administration. The committee will review the effectiveness and coordination these programs, with a view toward making improvements in their cost-effectiveness. (Spring, 1996)

Review of U.S. tax and regulatory policy and its impact on U.S. economic success abroad. (Spring/Summer, 1996)

Examination of the degree to which the U.S. is able to achieve its foreign policy objectives through its voice and vote in the International Financial Institutions. Is State being listened to/asserting itself? Are human rights and other political objectives taken seriously?

International Financial System. Assessment of the ability of the international financial system to respond to liquidity and other crises that threaten economic stability in other countries.

Impact of Trade on the U.S. Economy. The aftermath of the NAFTA and GATT debates; Does expanding trade, particularly with less developed economies, create more jobs than it costs?

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

U.S. Interests in Asia as We Look to the 21st Century. The Committee intends hold a series of overview hearings, designed to lay the basic parameters of the U.S.-Asian relationship as it moves into the 21st Century. It will explore the key issues that will shape our relations with Japan, China, Korea, India, ASEAN, APEC, etc. Various hearings will examine U.S. political, military/geostrategic, economic, human rights, and foreign assistance interests in the region. The committee anticipates 6-8 hearings in this series. (January-April, 1995)

U.S.-South Korean Relations and the Korean Peninsula Region. The Committee received a classified briefing on the status of the North Korean Nuclear program, and on North Korea's efforts to drive a wedge between the United States and South Korea. The Committee will also hold a public hearing on the U.S. - North Korea Framework Agreement. (February, 1995)

U.S. Security Treaty Arrangements in the Pacific: Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Philippines. (Fall 1995).

Review of U.S. efforts to stem intellectual property rights violations in the Asia-Pacific Region. (February-March 1995)

Japan -- Economic, political, trade and security matters. The Committee will conduct an extensive review of U.S. policy toward Japan. (Spring-Summer, 1995)

American-Vietnam Relations. In the light of the recent upgrade of U.S.-Vietnamese relations, the Committee will review U.S. policy toward Vietnam. Accounting for the fate of the MIAs remains a major concern of the Committee. (Summer, 1995)

The Status and Future of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Organization (APEC). The Committee will review the effectiveness of U.S. participation in the APEC process. (Summer-Fall, 1995)

Issues Related to Southeast Asian Refugees. Many refugees from Vietnam and Laos face the prospect of forcible return to their countries of origin from their current camps. The Committee will review the U.S. response to the prospect of their forcible return. (Summer-Fall, 1995)

Taiwan -- U.S. Policy. Major unresolved issues remain regarding circumstances under which Taiwan might be recognized, Taiwan's position within the United Nations, the appropriate level of weapons sales to Taiwan, and the retention of the U.S.'s "One China" policy. (Fall, 1995)

Oversight of U.S. policy toward Afghanistan. (Fall, 1995)

The Indian Subcontinent and Indian/Chinese Relations. Is U.S. policy responding adequately to the problems faced by the peoples of the subcontinent? (Fall, 1995)

Review of the U.S. relationship with India. (Fall 1995-Winter 1996)

U.S.-Pakistan Relations. (Fall 1995-Winter 1996)

The Kashmir Problem and U.S. policy. (Winter 1996)

PRC -- Economic, political, trade and security matters. The Committee will focus on issues such as human rights, proliferation, military build-up, problems of U.S. businesses operating in China, overall trade relations, GATT accession, intellectual property issues, Tibet, policy towards Taiwan. (Summer-Fall, 1996)

The Status and Future of Hong Kong: What is the appropriate U.S. Response? (Spring 1996)

American-Indonesia Relations. (Spring 1996)

Peace Process in Cambodia. (Summer, 1996)

The Burma (Myanmar) Problem. What is the appropriate U.S. policy toward the military junta in Burma? Should its potential to cooperate on narcotics suppression cause us to overlook its failures on human rights? (Spring, 1996)

Conflict in Sri Lanka. (Summer, 1996)

The Status and Future of U.S. Relations with Afghanistan. (Summer-Fall, 1996)

The Asia Development Bank and World Bank. (possibly joint work with the Banking Committee) Far too little is understood about the role of the Asia Development Bank in the politics of Asia. (Spring-Summer, 1996)

U.S. Relations with and Conditions in the Three Former American Pacific Trust Territories. (Possibly joint work with the Native American and Insular Affairs Subcommittee of Public Lands and Resources Committee)

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

CUBA

The Cuban "March 13th" Tugboat Incident. The Committee will examine the U.S. response to the deliberate sinking of the "March 13th" tugboat by Cuba's Coast Guard, killing between thirty and forty Cuban asylum seekers. (Winter 1995)

Cuba's economic relationships. The economic isolation of Fidel Castro continues to be a priority for many Americans. The Committee will explore the U.S. role in continuing this isolation. (Winter 1995)

Review of U.S. policy toward Cuba and Cuban migrants. Conditions at Guantanamo; U.S.-Cuba Migration Agreement; implementation of Cuban Democracy Act (Spring, 1995)

Evaluation of Radio and T.V. Marti. The Committee will consider whether Radio and T.V. Marti should receive continued funding, and if so, how to improve their effectiveness. (Spring, 1995)

OTHER

Energy Policy in the Western Hemisphere. The Committee will examine whether the Western Hemisphere has an energy policy, what foreign policy risks are posed by reliance on Middle Eastern oil, and what the region can do to encourage development of alternative oil and energy supplies in the region. (Spring, 1995)

Democracy in Nicaragua. The Committee will examine U.S. policy toward the development of democracy in Nicaragua, the return of confiscated U.S. and Nicaraguan property, and the plight of the former Contras. (Summer, 1995)

Democracy in El Salvador. This hearing will examine U.S. policy toward the development of democracy in El Salvador. (Fall 1995)

Argentina. The Committee will examine the overall state of relations between the U.S. and Argentina. (Summer, 1996)

Brasil. The Committee will examine the overall state of relations between the U.S. and Brazil. (Summer, 1996)

Guatemala. The Committee will explore U.S. policy towards Guatemala, with special attention to what progress, if any, Guatemala has made toward protecting the human rights of its populace. (Fall, 1996)

Peru & Ecuador: the Conflict over Cordillera del Condor. This hearing will examine the historical causes of and solutions to the ongoing border dispute between Peru and Ecuador. (Spring, 1995)

Review of U.S. policy in relation to Haiti. Current deployment of U.S. forces; U.S. aid; diversion of resources from other priorities; police training programs. (Spring, 1995)

Oversight of OAS. New salary policy; use of U.S. voluntary fund contributions and arrearages; internal reforms; Summit implementation (Spring, 1995)

Oversight of Aid program in Latin America. Free market strategies; support for consolidation of democracy (Winter/Spring, 1996).

Oversight of Trade Issues. Review of steps toward hemispheric free trade agreements; NAFTA access; Interim Trade Program for the Caribbean; Chile negotiations; Overview of NAFTA parity for CBI countries. (Winter/Spring, 1996)

Oversight of U.S. policy towards Mexico. Compliance with loan guarantee conditions; impact of NAFTA; economic and political reform; immigration policy; drug cooperation; Chiapas. (Winter/Spring, 1996)

Summit Follow-Up. Assignment of responsible agency or office to coordinate regional cooperation in democracy, drugs, environment, etc. (Winter/Spring, 1996)

Oversight of implementation of human rights and confiscation conditions in Central America aid programs. USG support for U.S. citizens trying to recover confiscated property. (Winter/Spring, 1996)

Expanding NAFTA: The Case of Chile. The Committee will examine Chile's economic resurgence and the benefits to the U.S. of expanding NAFTA to include Chile. (Spring, 1995)

U.S.-Canadian Relations. The future of Canada as we know it.
U.S.-Canadian trade relations.

The situation in Venezuela. Continuing financial and economic instability -- a threat to democracy in this country?

AFRICA

U.S. policy toward Islamic extremism in Africa. The Committee will review U.S. policy with respect to limiting Islamic extremist influences on the Continent. Also, oversight of U.S. policy toward Algeria as it faces a "fundamentalist" uprising. What is the role of the United States in encouraging democracy in Algeria? (Winter/Spring, 1995)

Oversight of U.S. policy toward Sudan. Is the U.S. responding adequately to Sudanese policies towards portions of its population, which may be seen as a form of genocide? What is the U.S. doing about the possible Sudanese threat to Eritrea and Ethiopia? (Winter/Spring, 1995)

Oversight of U.S. policy toward Rwanda & Burundi. Will Burundi also explode in Hutu-Tutsi violence? Is the Tutsi government in Rwanda reaching out to Hutus? Should donor nations withdraw support from refugee camps where Hutu extremists are in power? (Winter/Spring, 1995)

U.S. efforts to improve democracy in Africa. The committee will review during U.S. initiatives undertaken to provide technical assistance to African nations during their periods of transition towards democracy. (Spring, 1995)

U.S. trade, private investment, and economic development in Africa. The Committee will attempt to determine whether current policy aimed at increasing U.S. access to Africa's vital exports, and at increasing U.S. exports, is effective, to include a review of the activities of OPIC, Exim Bank, and the Commerce Department. Also, the Committee will examine U.S. efforts to encourage inter-African trade; African trade with the rest of the world is ten times higher than trade within Africa. (Spring, 1995)

Economic conditions and development in Africa. It has been suggested that by using bilateral levels of assistance and support for the World Bank and debt reduction programs as leverage, the U.S. can help African countries liberalize their economies. The committee will review U.S. efforts to promote the growth of market economies in Africa. (Spring, 1995)

Oversight over the AID activities such as the Development Fund for Africa, and of agencies such as the Africa Development Foundation. It has been suggested that there is duplication among these agencies and USAID, and that some of the programs are outdated or otherwise ineffective. Do they constrain more

creative, trade-based development? As to the Africa Development Foundation: are its overhead costs too high? What results can be shown from micro-enterprise efforts? Is it adequately funded? Should it remain an independent corporation? (Fall, 1995)

U.S. Foreign Assistance to Africa. The committee will review thoroughly all foreign aid requests for Africa in all categories of assistance in the light of current policy and performance. (Fall, 1995)

U.S. peacekeeping and its military presence in Africa. Is U.S. involvement in internal African conflicts in the national interest? Special attention will be paid to U.S. assistance for the final U.N. pullout from Somalia and to the peace process and prospects for peacekeeping in Angola. (Fall, 1995)

U.S. policy toward Zaire and Nigeria. How does the U.S. approach deal with regimes that have apparently failed to perform the most basic governmental obligations? (Fall, 1995/Winter, 1996)

Review of U.S. policy toward French relations with Francophone Africa. France's policies in Africa appear to have had negative effects on liberalization and democratization. What affect have these policies had on the people of Africa? How can the U.S. and other nations best counter and overcome them? (Fall, 1995/Winter, 1996)

Review of U.S. analytical framework for its approach to Africa. Should the United States stop looking at Africa as a singularity and begin to think in terms of sub-regions? (Fall, 1995/Winter, 1996)

U.S. Policy towards South Africa.

HIV and other health issues. The Committee will review U.S. programs and projects in Africa to combat HIV and other health-related problems. (Spring, 1996)

African Ecological problems. The Committee will hold hearings to gain further insight on U.S. efforts to resolve these problems. (Spring, 1996)

Refugee issues: causes and responses. The United States government, working in conjunction with United Nations relief agencies and other international relief organizations, is the leading provider of assistance in response to refugee emergencies worldwide. The Committee will assess the factors causing these refugee crises; how the U.S. and the international community is responding to these situations; address the notion of prevention; and how to improve upon the measures already in place. (Spring, 1996)

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

STATE DEPARTMENT

Organization of the Department of State. The Committee will examine changes in the organization of the Department, with particular reference to amendments made in the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995. Review progress on the Department's management initiatives and reengineering proposals, including a review of resource allocations overseas and in Washington based on agency priorities and necessary cost savings; personnel reforms in both the civil and foreign services and downsizing of overseas and Washington based bureaucracy; review use of allowances overseas and performance pay awards and possible adjustments; effectiveness/morale of civil service staff, including support staff. Proper placement of officials responsible for Canada and the FSU within the State bureaucracy. (Winter, Spring 1995)

Diplomatic and consular programs. The Committee will examine the impact of the end of the Cold War on United States diplomatic needs; role of diplomatic posts in monitoring international drug trafficking; impact of new technology on diplomatic and consular programs; and the protection of foreign missions and officials in the United States. (Spring, Summer 1995)

Oversight of Foreign Buildings activities. This is one of the largest accounts at the State Department. The Committee will oversee the activities of the Foreign Buildings Office, which is responsible for the several new posts opened in the former Soviet Union, for the disposition of certain surplus property abroad, and for security upgrades and maintenance. (Summer/Fall, 1995)

Review of overseas security. The Department's new "risk management" criteria permits savings by allowing managers to set security standards on a case by case basis. How is this working: is safety being compromised?

Is State doing enough planning/forward thinking? (Summer/Fall, 1996)

Oversight of Inspectors General of foreign affairs agencies. Are they working effectively? Are they being listened to? (Summer/Fall, 1995)

Review of consular activities. The Consular Affairs bureau is responsible for visas, passports and American Citizen services abroad; it is the front line for border security. Oversight issues include the status of resources for security and services to Americans overseas. Do consular officers in the field receive any feedback about whether their decisions to admit/deny visas are valid (i.e., does INS report to individual posts/officers on overstays, etc.)? (Fall, 1995)

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Broadcasting. All international broadcasting has been consolidated at USIA under a new Board for International Broadcasting. The transition will take a some time and has required considerable adjustments, and restructuring, within USIA. (Fall, 1996)

Oversight of Au Pair regulations. New regulations will be issued February 1995, and implementation of these should be reviewed, along with assessing which agency (if any) should administer the program.

Oversight of International Exchanges. USIA has statutory responsibility to coordinate international exchanges operated government-wide. Recent studies have identified significant overlap and duplication in exchange programs. A review of options to consolidate these exchanges to improve efficiency of programs may yield substantial budget savings (estimates \$200-250 million).

Other USIA programs. The Committee will examine such other USIA programs as its work on international conferences and commissions. (Fall, 1996)

Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Consolidation. The Committee will examine the effectiveness of ACDA in its present form, in light of suggestions that have been made that ACDA be consolidated with the Department of State or some other entity. (Fall, 1996)

International Organizations. The Committee will review the extent, costs, and benefits of United States participation in the United Nations and its affiliated organizations (e.g. UNICEF, WHO, UNPF), including issues of U.N. management reforms. (Summer, 1996)

Migration and refugee assistance. This Committee will examine the programs and administrative expenses of the bureau charged with carrying out the purposes of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962. (Fall, 1995)

SCIENCE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

International research cooperation. The Committee will review the administration of grants, contracts, and other activities to conduct research and promote international cooperation on environmental and other scientific issues. (Winter, 1996)

Sustainable Development and the Environment.

Global Climate change.

Biodiversity Convention.

Law of the Sea Convention.

Protocol for the Antarctic Treaty.

POPULATION AND CHILD SURVIVAL ISSUES

Population. The Cairo Conference on Population and Development called for significant new spending on population programs, but spending is already high. Are more resources the answer? Problems with/effectiveness of population efforts. (Summer, 1995)

Child survival. The Committee will examine the current state of infant mortality around the world, and will review United States participation in programs that aim to alleviate it, such as UNICEF. (Fall, 1995)

HUMAN RIGHTS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Committee will examine the current state of observance of the Declaration, including issues relating to the forced repatriation of refugees to countries where they are in significant danger of becoming victims of violations of their human rights. (Spring, 1995)

The Convention Against Torture And Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. These Committee will examine United States interpretation and implementation of this treaty. (Summer, 1995)

Religious persecution. These Committee will examine infractions of the right of religious liberty around the world, and the United States response to these abuses. (Fall, 1995)

Anti-semitism. There are suggestions that varieties of anti-Semitism unseen since before World War II are emerging at various points in the world. The committee will examine this problem and the United States response to it. (Fall, 1995)

Sexual exploitation of women and children. These Committee will examine the problems of large-scale prostitution, including child prostitution, in various parts of the world, and the United States response. (Fall, 1995)

Former Yugoslavia. The Committee will explore charges regarding human rights abuses arising out of the ongoing war in this region. (Spring, 1996)

Chechnya. These Committee will examine the human rights implications of the conduct of the Russian military in this region. (Spring, 1996)

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